



Figure S8. Congo red indicator plates for discrimination of sPNAG production in *E. coli*.

sPNAG-producing $\Delta csrA$ cells (dark brown colonies, left) can be discriminated from otherwise isogenic $\Delta csrA$ mutants defective in producing sPNAG (red colonies, right) based on their colony color. Production of PNAG in *S. epidermidis* can be distinguished on congo red indicator plates [7]. In order to extend this to *E. coli*, congo red indicator plates were supplemented with salt, which was reported to enhance *pga* locus transcription in *E. coli* [8]. As shown here, on the indicator plate, sPNAG-producing $\Delta csrA$ cells formed dark brown colonies whereas $\Delta csrA pgaA::kan$ cells (which had lost their ability to produce sPNAG) were red.